

Claims

1. A method for providing a text message to a user in a communications system, the method comprising the steps of:
 - establishing communications with the communications system from a
 - 5 user device;
 - selectively coupling to a speech-to-text server that converts speech to text;
 - the speech-to-text server converting speech from the user device to a text message; and
 - 10 the speech-to-text server storing the text message.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sending the text message to a user device.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of retrieving the text message.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of retrieving further includes the options to save, delete, forward, or convert to speech.
- 20 6. A telecommunications network that provides speech-to-text processing, the telecommunications network comprising:
 - a network access device coupled to the telecommunications network;
 - a voicemail system coupled to the telecommunications network to store
 - 25 audio messages; and
 - an application processor coupled to the voicemail system to receive voicemail messages and convert the voicemail messages to text.
7. The network of claim 6 wherein the text is sent to a destination over a
- 30 packet-based network.

8. The network of claim 7 wherein the text is sent as one of a facsimile transmission, an email, and a Web page posting.

9. A method for receiving text messages in a telecommunications
5 network, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving an incoming call;
determining whether to receive voice or a text message in response to
the incoming call;
receiving a voice message from a user device coupled to the
10 telecommunications network;
converting the voice message to a text message corresponding to the
voice message; and
sending the text message to a user device.

15 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:
after determining whether to receive voice or text in response to the
incoming call, sending an indication to a user device that a text message is
desired in response to the incoming call;
receiving a direct text message from the user device in response to the
20 indication; and
sending the direct text message to a user device;

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the direct text message is sent to the
user device based upon a user device profile.

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12. The method of claim 10 wherein sending the direct text message
includes sending one of an email, a facsimile, and an electronic message.